

Application No.: 10/061,343
Atty. Docket No.: 53394.000605

Amendment dated August 19, 2004
Reply to Office action of May 19, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

Please replace all of the pending claims in the application with the following complete set of claims.

1. (currently amended) A fastener tab for use on an absorbent garment, the fastener tab comprising:
 - a tab body having a proximal edge for locating proximate the garment, a distal edge opposite the proximal edge, a top edge adjacent the proximal edge, and a bottom edge opposite the top edge; and
 - a fastening area for removeably fastening the tab body to the garment, the fastening area having a first edge,
 - wherein a first tangent line is tangent to a first portion of the first edge of the fastening area,
 - a second tangent line is tangent to a second portion of the first edge of the fastening area,
 - the second tangent line intersects the first tangent line, and
 - one of the first and second tangent lines is non-parallel to a primary pull direction of the fastener tab[.], and

the fastening area having a second edge.

wherein the second edge is substantially parallel to the first edge.
2. (original) The tab of claim 1, wherein a portion of the tab body is elastic.
3. (original) The tab of claim 2, wherein the first portion of the first edge is curved.
4. (original) The tab of claim 3, wherein the first portion of the first edge is concave toward the proximal edge of the tab.

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5. (original) The tab of claim 3, wherein the first portion of the first edge is convex toward the proximal edge of the tab.
6. (original) The tab of claim 3, wherein the second portion of the first edge is curved.
7. (original) The tab of claim 6, wherein the first and second portions of the first edge are concave toward the proximal edge of the tab.
8. (original) The tab of claim 6, wherein the first and second portions of the first edge are convex toward the proximal edge of the tab.
9. (original) The tab of claim 3, wherein the second portion of the first edge is straight.
10. (original) The tab of claim 2, wherein the first portion of the first edge is straight.
11. (original) The tab of claim 10, wherein the second portion of the first edge is straight.
- 12-18. (canceled)
19. (currently amended) A fastener tab for use on an absorbent garment, the fastener tab comprising:
 - a tab body having a proximal edge for locating proximate the garment, a distal edge opposite the proximal edge, a top edge adjacent the proximal edge, and a bottom edge opposite the top edge; and
 - a fastening area for removeably fastening the tab body to the garment, the fastening area having a first edge,
 - wherein a first tangent line is tangent to a first portion of the first edge of the fastening area,
 - a second tangent line is tangent to a second portion of the first edge of the fastening area,
 - the second tangent line intersects the first tangent line,

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the first tangent line is non-parallel to one of the top edge and the bottom edge,
and

the second tangent line is non-parallel to one of the top edge and the bottom
edge[[]], and

the fastening area having a second edge,

wherein the second edge is substantially parallel to the first edge.

20. (currently amended) An absorbent garment, comprising:

a garment chassis;

an absorbent core; and

a fastener tab, the fastener tab having

a tab body with a proximal edge located proximate the garment, a distal edge
opposite the proximal edge, a top edge adjacent the proximal edge, and a
bottom edge opposite the top edge; and

a fastening area for removeably fastening the tab body to the garment, the
fastening area having a first edge,

wherein a first tangent line is tangent to a first portion of the first edge of
the fastening area,

a second tangent line is tangent to a second portion of the first edge of the
fastening area,

the second tangent line intersects the first tangent line, and

one of the first and second tangent lines is non-parallel to a primary pull
direction of the fastener tab[[]], and

the fastening area having a second edge,

wherein the second edge is substantially parallel to the first edge.

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21. (original) The garment of claim 20, wherein a portion of the tab body is elastic.
22. (original) The garment of claim 21, wherein the first portion of the first edge is curved.
23. (original) The garment of claim 22, wherein the first portion of the first edge is concave toward the proximal edge of the tab.
24. (original) The garment of claim 22, wherein the first portion of the first edge is convex toward the proximal edge of the tab.
25. (original) The garment of claim 22, wherein the second portion of the first edge is curved.
26. (original) The garment of claim 25, wherein the first and second portions of the first edge are concave toward the proximal edge of the tab.
27. (original) The garment of claim 25, wherein the first and second portions of the first edge are convex toward the proximal edge of the tab.
28. (original) The garment of claim 22, wherein the second portion of the first edge is straight.
29. (original) The garment of claim 21, wherein the first portion of the first edge is straight.
30. (original) The garment of claim 29, wherein the second portion of the first edge is straight.
- 31-37. (canceled)
38. (original) The garment of claim 20, wherein the first edge stops short of the top edge of the tab body.
39. (original) The garment of claim 20, wherein the first edge stops short of the bottom edge of the tab body.
40. (original) The garment of claim 39, wherein the first edge stops short of the top edge of the tab body.

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41. (currently ammended) An absorbent garment, comprising:

a garment chassis;

an absorbent core; and

a fastener tab, the fastener tab having

a tab body with a proximal edge located proximate the garment, a distal edge opposite the proximal edge, a top edge adjacent the proximal edge, and a bottom edge opposite the top edge; and

a fastening area for removeably fastening the tab body to the garment, the fastening area having a first edge,

wherein a first tangent line is tangent to a first portion of the first edge of the fastening area,

a second tangent line is tangent to a second portion of the first edge of the fastening area,

the second tangent line intersects the first tangent line,

the first tangent line is non-parallel to one of the top edge and the bottom edge, and

the second tangent line is non-parallel to one of the top edge and the bottom edge[.], and

the fastening area having a second edge,

wherein the second edge is substantially parallel to the first edge.

42. (currently amended) A disposable absorbent garment comprising:

a main body defining a longitudinal direction and a cross direction substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction; and

a pair of fastener tabs, the fastener tabs

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being stretchable in the cross direction,
attached to the main body for securing the garment about a wearer,
having a proximal end for attachment to the garment, a distal end opposite the proximal end and end edges connecting the proximal end to the distal end, having a width defined as that portion of the tab extending between the end edges in the longitudinal direction, and
having a deadened zone positioned between the distal end and the proximal end, the deadened zone being a segment of substantially non-stretchable material positioned on the fastener tab to create differing zones of stretchability as the tabs are stretched in the cross direction[.].

the deadened zone having a first edge, the first edge being non-parallel to the fastener tab end edges, and

the deadened zone having a second edge,

wherein the second edge is substantially parallel to the first edge.

43. (original) The garment of claim 42, wherein the deadened zone is created by a segment of hook and loop material extending across the width of the tab non-linearly.
44. (original) The garment of claim 43, wherein the deadened zone is created by hook and loop material attached to the fastener tabs.
45. (original) The garment of claim 42, wherein the deadened zone is created by a segment of hook and loop material extending across the width of the tab, and
at least a portion of the deadened zone is linear.
46. (original) The garment of claim 45, wherein the deadened zone is created by hook and loop material attached to the fastener tabs.